



The Wesleyan Star

November 2025

West Grove
United Methodist Church
Pastor DJ Choi

300 North Guernsey Road
West Grove, Pa. 19390
Phone: 610-869-9334

**“Though the fig tree should not blossom,
nor fruit be on the vines,
the produce of the olive fail
and the fields yield no food,
the flock be cut off from the fold
and there be no herd in the stalls,
18 yet I will rejoice in the LORD;
I will take joy in the God of my salvation.”
Habakkuk 3:17-18**

Dear West Grove Church Family,

There are moments in life when pain feels unbearable and injustice seems to prevail. We pray, but heaven feels silent. The world around us appears unfair, and God seems distant. The prophet Habakkuk lived in such a time. In the final days of Judah, surrounded by violence and corruption, he cried out, “Lord, how long shall I call for help, and You will not listen?”

Yet, through that silence, Habakkuk discovered the faithfulness of God. He began with lament, stood firm in faith, and ended with praise. His journey teaches us how to live faithfully in uncertain and troubling times.

In the coming weeks, we will journey together through a sermon series titled “Habakkuk: Trusting God in Troubled Times.” Through this message series, we will rediscover the God who still works in our suffering, the faith that trusts even when answers are delayed, and the praise that rises even when circumstances do not change.

I warmly invite you to join this sacred journey of faith — where our lament turns into prayer, our prayer into confidence, and our confidence into songs of praise.

Habakkuk: Trusting God in Troubled Time

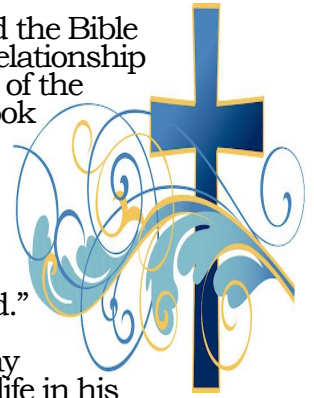
Nov 9th - “Troubled World the Wicked Prosper” - Habakkuk 1:1-11

Nov 16th - “Let the Wicked keep Silence before the Lord” - Habakkuk 2:2-8

Nov 23rd - “From Mourning to Dancing” - Habakkuk 3:8-19

In Christ,
DJ Choi

When speaking to those new in the faith, they would ask where I should start to read the Bible and learn about Jesus. My advice is to start in the Gospel of John. It gives you the relationship of Jesus to God, His Father, and His life calling us to salvation. Below is a summary of the Gospel of John—written especially for the new Christians—highlighting what the book says, why it matters, and how you can use it to grow in faith.



1. What John is about :

The Gospel of John presents Jesus Christ as the eternal Word who became flesh: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1)

John's purpose is made explicit in John 20:30-31: “These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

While the other Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke) tell many of the same stories, John has a unique tone: deeper theological reflection, and a focus on who Jesus is (his identity) and what believing in him means.

2. How the book is laid out John can broadly be divided into these major sections:

- A. Prologue (1:1–18): Introduces Jesus as the Word, the Light, the Life.
- B. Signs of Jesus / His Ministry (1:19–12:50): Miracles and teaching that show who Jesus is.
- C. Farewell, Passion, Resurrection (13:1–20:31): intimate teaching with the disciples, Jesus' death, resurrection
- D. Epilogue (21:1–25): Further appearance of the risen Jesus and the commission of believers.

3. Key themes for a new believer:

A. Jesus' identity and relationship with the Father

Jesus is not merely a moral teacher, but the Son of God, one with the Father.

The “I Am” statements: e.g., “I am the bread of life” (6:35); “I am the way, the truth and the life” (14:6).

B. Belief and eternal life

Believing in Jesus is central—John uses the verb “believe” many times.

Through belief one moves from death to life, from darkness to light.

C. Light vs. darkness, Spirit vs. flesh

Dualities: world vs children of God; light vs darkness; spirit vs flesh. These help show the difference Jesus makes.

D. Mission and relationship

Jesus not only sends his disciples but invites them into relationship: abiding (John 15:1-5), loving one another (13:34-35).

The Gospel calls you not just to know about Jesus but to live with Jesus and let him live through you.

4. Why this is helpful for you as a new Christian

Clarity of the gospel: John gives a clear statement of who Jesus is and what believing means—very helpful in the early stages of faith.

Depth for growth: John also offers rich theology—it rewards repeated readings and meditation.

Personal relationship: It emphasizes a living, personal relationship with Jesus.

5. How to use John for your spiritual growth

Begin by reading John in one or two sittings to get the overall flow.

Then go back, chapter at a time asking: Who is Jesus saying he is here? What does he ask of me?

Focus especially on the “I Am” statements and His miracles (“signs”).

Meditate on John 20:30-31: ask yourself, “Do I truly believe that Jesus is the Christ, and am I living in his name?”

Let the themes sink in: light/darkness, life/death, belief/unbelief. Where am I in those?

John 17 is His prayer for Himself, His disciples and for those who the Father has given to Him.

Do you see yourself in this prayer? For this truly is the Lord's Prayer.

Dear West Grove Church Family,

On November 23, we will gather to celebrate Commitment Sunday—a time to reflect on how God calls each of us to be faithful stewards of God’s blessings. Stewardship is not only about giving financially; it is about living—living out our calling to be Christ’s hands and feet in the world. Please remember that your commitment and generosity make it possible for West Grove United Methodist Church to realize Our vision: Encounter, Empower, Engage Our community to be Followers of Christ in 2025. Here are a few highlights.

ENCOUNTER (Worship) Attendance has increased by 27%, bringing our average worship attendance to 70 people, compared to 2024. We are committed to offering inspiring worship through Bible-centered messages that focus on practical application and faithful living, along with various forms of music—including the choir, praise band, and handbell choir.

EMPOWER (Discipleship) Our church continues to place a strong emphasis on discipleship. Small group Bible studies have been renewed and reorganized into Community Groups with new core values: Biblically Oriented, Relationally Connected, Prayerfully Centered, and Ministry Focused. We currently offer an adult Sunday School class and three weekday Community Groups for empowering our faith.

ENGAGE (Fellowship) Several new ministries were added last year, expanding our ways to serve and connect with others: Meals from Angels with Love, Community Garden, Midweek Ministry, Victory Sunday etc.

Our budget for this year was \$287,488. Through your generous and sacrificial giving, we have been able to move from a long-standing deficit to a surplus—a testimony to God’s faithfulness and your commitment. As we look to the coming year, we invite you to make a commitment of faith and generosity—not only to sustain the ministries we share, but to help us realize our vision more fully. Every prayer offered, every act of service, and every gift given moves us closer to becoming a community, the Kingdom of God.

Please take time to pray about how you will dedicate yourself in the coming year, and bring your completed “Estimate of Giving” (formerly Commitment Card) with you on November 23 to present before God. Together, we can continue building a church that shines the light of Christ in West Grove and beyond.

With gratitude and hope,

Rev. DongJin Choi, *Pastor*,

West Grove United Methodist Church

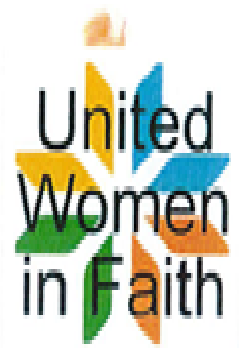
STEWARSHIP SUNDAY, November 23rd

It is that time of year at WGUMC to start looking ahead to the new year and all it has in store for us. Look for the “Time and Talent” form along with this year’s commitment form in November’s bulletins and on the information center in the narthex.

Did You Know?

Did you know that United Women in Faith here at WGUMC, throughout our country and around the world are dedicated to addressing the needs of vulnerable people, fostering equity, and advancing social good for women, children, and youth. Looking at the bigger picture... no! wait! HUGE picture!... together we bear witness to the Wesleyan tradition of living an active Christian life, blessing others with our service, and building the "kin-dom".

We love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously. That's what we do as Methodist women. Shirley



United Methodist Women

Save This Date! Sunday, November 9, 2025 1:30pm.

Whether you are in your golden years, or younger, or journeying alongside a loved one, this season is a precious gift. Our golden years is a time to mentor, inspire, a time of reflection and renewed purpose. Psalm 92:14 says, "They will still bear fruit in old age."

Did you realize our church and community are strengthened by the experience, faith and resilience of those in their golden years and that our stories are vital to our church family?

Our special guest and author, Ann Yeager, will grace us, the United Women in Faith and all ladies, to talk about, "Finding Peace In The Golden Years Or Any Age." She'll talk about lies we believe, our fears, our identity, and purpose in life.



Ann Yeager, is a worship assistant, leads an active women's ministry, mentors women and has a prophetic, healing, prayer ministry.

Her passion is to share the Father's heart and to help others deal with the day-to-day stressors of life. She has a degree in education and completed The Global School of Supernatural Ministry's Summer Intensive School.

She and her husband, Chuck, live in Ephrata, PA. They have two adult children, Justin and Laura.

ATTENTION ALL LADIES!

DID YOU KNOW that Yoga is an excellent way to improve flexibility, strength, mindfulness, and overall health?

WGUMC United Women in Faith (formerly UMW) has established a weekly yoga routine which ensures that you can experience these benefits.

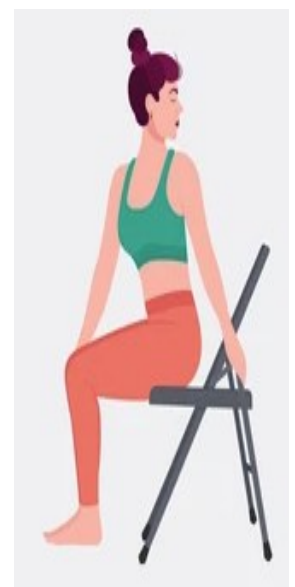
Tuesday's, 1:30 to 2:00pm, with Julissa Sanchez, our yoga instructor.

Stop in, bring a bottle of water and wear comfortable clothes.

Your minimum donation of \$5.00 is appreciated and enables us to continue UWF's mission in providing this valuable service to you and to our community.

Bring a friend and be ready to grab a chair! See you in the sanctuary!

Feel free to call Shirley Daddario, President of UWF, if you have any questions, 484-268-0497 or email at shirleydad@verizon.net.



Thank You for Supporting the Rummage Sale

On behalf of United Women in Faith, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of our Fall Rummage Sale. Your donations, time, and support were truly invaluable.

Whether you donated items, volunteered your time, helped with setup and clean up, or simply spread the word, your efforts made a real difference. Because of your dedication and enthusiasm, we were able to create a wonderful event that benefited our community, local and worldwide.

The sale made \$4,136.81.

Thank you once again for your support. We couldn't have done it without you!





Food Pantry

West Grove UMC Food Pantry

Weekly Hours:

Wednesday: 5:00 - 6:00 pm.

Thursdays: 1:00 - 2:00 pm.

Food Pantry Update

Each November, we give our families the fixin's for a Thanksgiving meal. The Chester County Food Bank provides 2 chickens per family, stuffing, gravy, green beans, corn, cranberry sauce and fresh produce. We will have our Thanksgiving distributions Wednesday Nov. 20th from 5:00-6:00 pm. and Thursday, Nov. 21st from 1:00-2:00 pm. We will not have food distributions the week of Thanksgiving. Donated items are always appreciated. Some of the most requested items are tortillas (corn or flour), canned corn, cooking oil, rice and flour (corn or wheat). There is a black bin in the church lobby where you can place your donations.

Every month, we emphasize one item for donations. In the month of November, we will be collecting cat and dog food. Cans or bags are fine. If we receive a large bag of dog food we will open it and bag it into smaller quantities.

Place your donations in the black bin provided in the narthex.



Looking For Able Bodies: One of the young men that has been regularly helping with the food pantry on Wednesday mornings, has had a position change at work which makes him no longer available Wednesday mornings. We are looking for one or more volunteers who are able to lift at least 40 lbs. If that is you, or you have a friend who might be interested, please have that person contact Joan Leaman (484-643-2181). A weekly commitment is not necessary, even once or twice a month would be extremely helpful.

Christmas Music Celebration

Mark your calendars for our Annual Christmas Music Celebration

which will be held on Sunday, December 7th at 6:30 pm.

If you sing, play an instrument, dance or have a story you'd like to tell and want to participate in the Celebration, contact Betsy Smith at musicmomva@aol.com

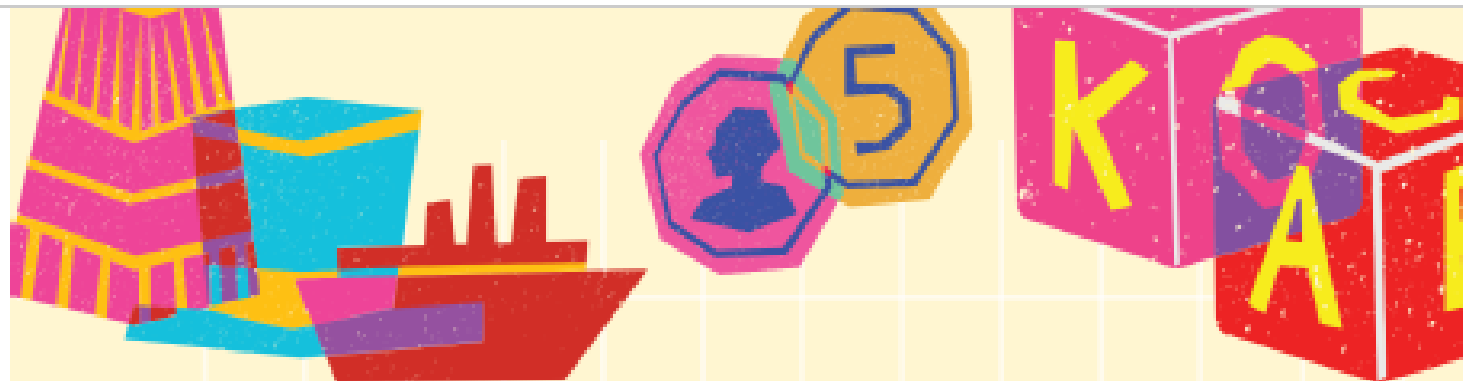


Sounds of The Season



Relief for Human Need Worldwide

Since Rob Hall (Orphan Grain Train representative) was in front of the WGUMC congregation presenting Orphan Grain Train's missions, the church congregation and United Women of Faith have donated over \$600.00 and several large bags of clothing to their mission. The Train is located in the Dansko warehouse off Old Baltimore Pike and accepts all kinds of donations. Visit their website for details.



Friday November 21st

6:30 TO 8:30 PM @ WGUMC

GAME NIGHT POT LUCK

Bring your favorite dish and enjoy an evening with your friends and family. There will be interactive group games, board games and jigsaw puzzles. Fun for everyone!

Questions contact Andrew @

HermanAndrew@yahoo.com





“Your generosity helps us make holiday wishes come true!”
THANK YOU FOR DONATING ONLY NEW & UNWRAPPED GIFTS!

We are moving up our in-hand submission date to the Week of December 15

❄️ **Young Children: Infants & Toddlers**

Board Books, Toddler Toys, Mr. Potato Head, Peg Puzzles, Push & Ride-on Toys, Bibs, Diapers & Wipes

❄️ **Pre-School: Ages 3-5 Years**

Age-Appropriate Books, Mr/Ms Potato Head, Age-Appropriate Toys, Safe Blocks, Art Supplies (Paints, Finger Paints, Markers), Playdough, Fun Foam, Kinetic Sand, Craft Supplies (Ribbon, Yarn, Fabric, etc), Trucks, Cars, Active Toys, Dolls (African American, Latino, Other), Wooden Puzzles, Dress Up Clothing & Accessories, Learning Games

❄️ **Elementary School: Ages 6-10 Years**

Action Figures, Legos, 30 to 50 Piece Puzzles, Age-Appropriate Books, Sports Equipment, Team Apparel, Arts & Crafts Supplies, Trucks, Train & Car Sets, Dolls (African American, Latino, Other), Coding Toys, Sensory Toys/Fidgets

❄️ **Middle School: Ages 11-14 Years**

Age-Appropriate Books, Bi-Lingual Books & Games, Arts & Crafts Supplies, Science Kits, Robotic Sets, Beauty & Grooming Items, Sports Equipment, Team Apparel, Jewelry, Video Games, Gaming Systems, Coding Toys, Sensory Toys/Fidgets

❄️ **High School: Ages 15-18 Years**

Age-Appropriate Books, Gift Cards, Arts & Crafts Supplies, Sports Equipment, Beauty & Grooming Items, Jewelry, Video Games, Gaming Systems

❄️ **Young Adult: Ages 19-24 Years**

Pillows & Twin Comforters, Twin Bed Sheets & Mattress Protectors, Towel Sets & Washcloths, Shower Curtains & Liners, Dish Cloths, Board Games, Journals, Small Room Trash Cans, Dish Sets, Pots/Pans

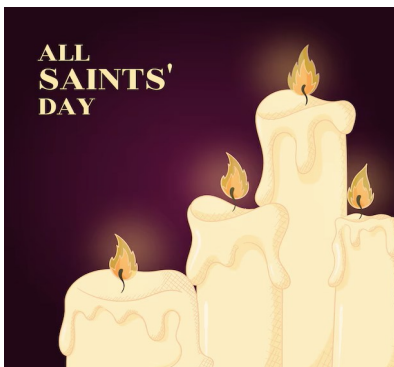
❄️ **Adults in Our Programs**

Books, Jewelry, Beauty & Grooming Items, Personal Care Baskets, Hats, Scarves, Watches

Our families treasure Gift Cards of any value from Target, Kohl's, Walmart, Best Buy & Old Navy. Please mark the amount of the Gift Card on the envelope. Many of our programs serve young children and families who would also benefit from the donation of NEW car seats, bouncy seats, high chairs, boxes of disposable diapers (all sizes) and other baby care items. We also appreciate receiving wrapping paper, gift bags and bows.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

November 2nd	All Saints Sunday // Daylight Savings Time // Victory Sunday Sports Ministry
November 3rd	Pastor Jim's Bible Study
November 4th	Yoga Class // Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study
November 6th	Pastor DJ's Bible Study
November 8th	Charge Conference
November 9th	Confirmation Class // United Women in Faith Gathering
November 10th	Pastor Jim's Bible Study
November 11th	Yoga Class
November 13th	Pastor DJ's Bible Study
November 14th	RAP
November 17th	Pastor Jim's Bible Study
November 18th	Yoga Class
November 20th	Pastor DJ's Bible Study
November 22nd	United Methodist Men's Breakfast
November 23rd	Stewardship Sunday // Confirmation Class
November 24th	Pastor Jim's Bible Study
November 25th	Yoga Class
November 27th	THANKSGIVING DAY



All Saints Sunday, November 2nd, 2025

Pictures of our loved ones, who have recently been deceased, will be displayed at the front of the sanctuary. They're name will be read, a candle will be lit in their name, and a prayer will be said over them.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Our WGUMC Prayer Ministry is looking for a few volunteers to bolster our fellowship in prayer.

Please contact Susan Paisley, sbrintonpais1@verizon.net / Carol McGinley, cmcginley@zoominternet.net / Sandi Hampton sandihampton6@gmail.com/or Pam Howard phoward40@comcast.net as you feel led to serve and if you have any questions.





What a fun time of the preschool year! The children have been busy learning all about Fall. Our field trips to Milburn Orchards started us on that journey. While on our field trips we were able to learn about how apples grow and get packed for the grocery stores. We also enjoyed a bumpy hayride and loved meeting some of the fun animals. We came home with an apple and a pumpkin and many of us even had the yummy apple cider donuts. Our field trips were just the start of our learning in October. We continued our Fall theme by learning more about apples, acorns, and squirrels. The end of the month included lots of Halloween fun and even a few treats. We paraded for our families in our fall colors or costumes and had a special treat at the end of the day. We are looking forward to learning about kindness and talking about all of the things we are grateful for in November.



Poinsettia's for Christmas!

Watch your Sunday Bulletin and the December Newsletter for your opportunity to order a poinsettia, in celebration or honor of someone, to adorn the sanctuary during the month of December. Plant price will be determined and advertised by late November.





RSVP to sar57ver@verizon.net so we will be able to provide enough seating.

Learn about the battles between 1808-1814 known as The Peninsular War. Dick Stuhrke will give us a first hand report with pictures and commentary about his trip and the folks he met.

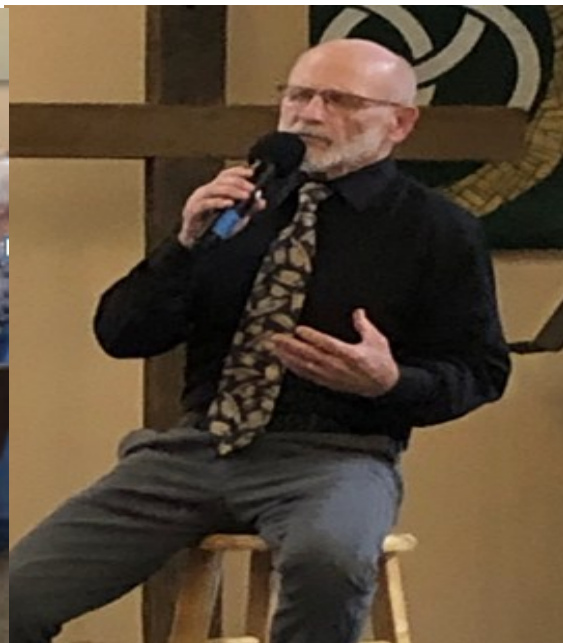
Bring your own lunch! Beverages and desserts will be provided. If you are able to provide a dessert please let Sara Ann know. Thank you and see you at our luncheon.

PS: A great big THANK YOU goes out to Colton McCummings, who has volunteered to help the RAP group by setting up our tables and chairs for our 2025-26 meetings! Colton, we certainly appreciate your helpfulness.

The RAP Committee

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A special thank you to Crooner Mel Leaman for his outstanding October RAP concert!



COAT/JACKET DRIVE

This year, we again, will be conducting a Winter Outerwear Collection from **Nov. 16th through Dec. 14th.**

We ask for donations of new or gently used coats, jackets, hats, gloves, and mittens in all sizes. A rack and box will be set-up in the lobby to receive your donations. The clothing will be made available to the families that are registered with our food pantry. If you have items that you'd like to donate but aren't able to bring them to the church, we have a member who would be happy to arrange to pick them up from your home.



CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR RESIDENTS AT TWIN PINES CARE FACILITY



For many years, we have collected gifts for our friends living at Twin Pine Care Facility in Chatham.

We will do so again this year. Residents are asked what they would like for Christmas and that list is sent to us.

We will provide gifts to 25 residents. A small tree will be placed in the lobby at the end of November with gift tags for you to take.

Gifts need to be brought to the church by Tuesday, Dec. 16th.

ADVENT BAGS

How can you help to make a memorable and meaningful advent season for others?

Let's remember the members of our church family who are unable to attend services or gatherings in person, especially during the advent season, with advent bags.

We need your help! On November 5th look for Sign-Up-Genius to see what is needed for the advent bags. Instructions will be on the Sign-Up-Genius for your wrapped item.

United Women in Faith will deliver the advent bags in time for the advent season.

Together, we can create a memorable and meaningful advent for all. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ! Contact person is Priscilla Barkman. chrishell5@verizon.net





WELL DONE MY GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT.

On November 9th we will be bidding farewell to Xavier Feliciano as WGUMC's Youth Director. Xavier has served with energy, forethought, commitment, dedication and with true concern, understanding and compassion for our youth. He has planned and executed VBS, Youth Group, Mid-Week Ministry, Youth lockdowns, Victory Sports Ministry, Cookie Nights, Basketball Tournaments, Cookouts, Outdoor Movie Nights (making his own homemade screen), Chapel Time with CMO and countless other programs designed to reach the youth in our church and our community.

He took the future of our youth to heart and served them and WGUMC with integrity. Life happens and it is time for Xavier to move on. He will be missed. Thank you Xavier!

Dear West Grove United Methodist Church Family,

As I get ready to finish my time as the Child and Youth Director on November 9th, I just want to say a big **thank you** from the bottom of my heart. Serving here has been such a gift. Getting to walk alongside our kids and youth, to see their faith grow and their joy shine, has truly been one of the best parts of my journey.

To the whole congregation, thank you for welcoming me and my family with open arms from day one. You made West Grove feel like home. Your kindness, support, and love have meant more to us than words can say.

While this chapter is coming to an end, the relationships and memories we've built here will always stay with me. I'm so grateful for every laugh, prayer, and moment shared together.

Thank you again for letting me be part of this amazing church family. I'll always be cheering you on as you continue to share God's love in this community.

With love and gratitude, Xavier Feliciano



Director Youth Ministry *15 - 20 hours a week/Facilitate youth programs/ Weekly youth group meetings/Fellowship activities/Plan, organize and lead opportunities for youth in worship, service, and fellowship. Please contact the pastor thru the church office - office@westgroveumc.org // 610-869-9334

BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

Jim Mundell	06
Jamie Hocking	07
Heather Wolfe	09
Chris Bruno	09
Abby Herman	10
Carol Sweet	13
David Covington	14
Jayna Bruno	16
Bonnie Wolff	



Mel Leaman	18
Holly Stewart	18
Bill Pardoe	20
Tom Warfel	22
Justin Lytle	24
Alyssa Lytle	24
Emily Lytle	24
Kelly Hendrickson	24
Linda Brown	29

The United Methodist Men hold a monthly breakfast at the church. There is time for scripture, sharing, some speakers and lots of fellowship.

We meet on the

Fourth Saturday of each Month, 8:00 -9:30 am.

This month's breakfast is October 25th

More information will be shared as plans are made.

All men and boys are invited to attend. Contact Michael Duvall with your questions. (mwduvall@aol.com)



Have a question about the UMC, it's worship (what is Pentecost?), beliefs (what is repentance?), the sacraments (what do I need to know about baptism?), or the UMC in general (are all Methodist churches part of UMC)? <https://www.umc.org/en/who-we-are/ask-the-umc-faqs>





**DO YOU RECEIVE OUR WEEKLY (WGUMC)
CONSTANT CONTACT EMAILS?**

We publish a Weekly West Grove Wednesday edition which features upcoming events or events that have popped up unexpectedly. Also a Saturday Sneak-a-Peek about the sermon on Sunday and other information, including our newsletter, and a link to the current week's bulletin.

If you are not receiving these two emails, perhaps you elected to unsubscribe or they are being treated as spam and are going directly to trash.

If you are missing out and would like to be on the list, email April Spencer, our Church Administrator, at office@westgroveumc.org or call the office at 610-869-9334. She will be happy to add you to the list!

~ Encounter ~ Empower ~ Engage ~

At West Grove UMC, we love God by encouraging Our community to be followers of Christ.

**Office Hours: Monday—Friday
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

**Sunday Worship Service
9:27 am.**

Staff

Rev. DJ Choi, Lead Pastor,
pastor@westgroveumc.org

The Reverend Jim Mundell - Associate Pastor,
Chaplain at Jenner's Pond

Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org

Xavier Feliciano - Youth & Children's Ministry
Director

Childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org

April Spencer - Church Administrator

Office@westgroveumc.org

Dan Elliott—Financial Administrator

Financialadmin@westgroveumc.org

Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director
Contemporary Music Director
Keyboardist

Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org

Bill Pardoe—IT Director

billpardoe1@gmail.com

Lavenia Civitella—Handbell Choir Director

Misslavenia@verizon.net

Abbie Gruscavage—Children's Morning Out Director

cmo@westgroveumc.org

Maira Tena—Sexton

sexton@westgroveumc.org

Christ Servant Ministers

Peter Mullen, psmullen@petermullen.com

Board and Committee Leadership

Dick Stuhrke - Chair Vision Team (Ad. Council)

Dan Elliott Financial Administrator

Kim O'Neill - Trustee Chair

Vicki Owens - Treasurer

Cindy Hoover - SPRC Chair

DJ Choir - Missions Chair

Dick and Caryl Stuhrke - Hospitality Committee Chair

Open -Delegate to Annual Conference

Open - Committee on Lay Leadership

Shirley Daddario - U.W.F. President

Susan Paisley - Prayer Ministry Coordinator

Joan Leaman—Emergency Food Pantry Coordinator

Amy Castaldi - Nursery Coordinator

Cindy Hoover—CMO Advisory Board Chair

Sara Ann Ramberger—R.A.P Coordinator